

Message Text

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14

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAL-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /156 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7392

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FROM LOSDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, BG

SUBJ: BANGLADESH BASELINE PROPOSAL

DACCA 1891, 2130

1. USDEL MEMBERS HELD FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH BANGLADESH REP RASHID TO DISCUSS BASELINE PROPOSAL. BANGLADESH AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 6 RADICALLY ALTERS EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND STATE PRACTISE CONCERNING BASELINES FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA OR FUTURE ECONOMIC ZONE. BASIC CLAIM RELATES TO ALLEGED INSTABILITY OF NORMAL BASELINE IN DELTAIC AREA.

2. BOTH UK AND US REPS EXAMINED CHARTS OF GANGES DELTA AREA FOR PAST 20 TO 40 YEARS AND ASCERTAINED THAT CLEAR
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BASELINE IN FACT EXISTS AND MOREOVER SHOWS GREAT DEGREE

OF ANNUAL STABILITY. WHILE SEASONAL ALTERNATIONS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED DUE TO RIVER FLOODING, MONSOONS AND CYCLONES, THE CONFIGURATIONAL CHANGES OF SEAWARD EDGE OF DELTA WERE JUDGED NO GREATER THAN CHANGES IN OTHER FORMS AND TYPES OF COASTLINES THROUGHOUT WORLD.

3. INFORMAL GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS (USREP HODGSON) MET ON BANGLADESH PROBLEMS IN CARACAS, GENEVA AND AGAIN IN NEWYORK. GROUP UNANIMOUS THAT THE SITUATION CAN BE MET ADVANTAGEOUSLY BY BANGLADESH WITH EXISTING SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT FORMULATION FOR ARTICLE 6 AS A BASELINE PROBLEM.

4. FYI EXPLANATIONS GIVEN FOR THE BANGLADESH PROPOSAL TO VARIOUS DELEGATIONS APPEAR CONFUSING AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY. WHILE BANGLADESH REPS INFORMED USDEL MEMBERS THAT BASELINE PROBLEM DID NOT RELATE TO DELIMITATION ISSUES WITH INDIA AND BURMA, EXPLANATIONS TO OTHER DELEGATIONS CONCENTRATED ON THIS PROBLEM. THE DELIMITATION EXPLANATION APPEARS MORE LIKELY AND, IF THIS IS THE CASE, ISSUE WOULD BE BETTER MET IN ARTICLES 13, 60 AND 71 ON BOUNDARY DELIMITATION. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THIS TO BANGLADESH REPS. END FYI

5. THE USDEL CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO BANGLADESH PROPOSALS FOR BASELINE DUE TO ADVERSE EFFECT ON NAVIGATIONAL AND SOVEREIGNTY ISSUES.

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